

Amendments to the Drawings:

The accompanying sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 in accordance with the Examiner's comments regarding the line thickness of the originally submitted drawings. Replacement sheet 1 includes Figure 1 having thickened lines, thereby replacing previously filed Figure 1. Replacement sheet 2 includes Figure 2 having thickened lines, thereby replacing previously filed Figure 2. Replacement sheet 3 includes Figure 3 having thickened lines, thereby replacing previously filed Figure 3. Replacement sheet 4 includes Figure 4 having thickened lines, thereby replacing previously filed Figure 4. No new matter has been added to the Figures.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Remarks

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of the office action dated April 10, 2006. Claims 22-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Applicants have amended independent claim 22 as recommended by the Examiner to overcome this rejection, and to render more clearly the statutory subject matter thereof.

Claims 1-28 were provisionally rejected for non-statutory double-patenting over claims 1-5 and 8-12 of the co-pending application having serial number 10/710,487. Applicants will file a terminal disclaimer relative to the cited application at such time that the Examiner has indicated that the claims are otherwise in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17, 19-24, and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,509,868 to Flick. Claims 4, 11, and 18 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 depended from claim 1, 11 depended from claim 8, and claim 18 depended from claim 15. Claims 1, 8, and 15 have therefore been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 4, 11, and 18 respectively, and claims 4, 11, and 18 have been canceled. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 22 to include all of the limitations of claim 25, which correspond to the limitations in claim 4, 11, and 18. All remaining claims depend from independent claims 1, 8, 16, and 22, and include further limitations thereto. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17, 19-24, and 26-28 are in condition for allowance.

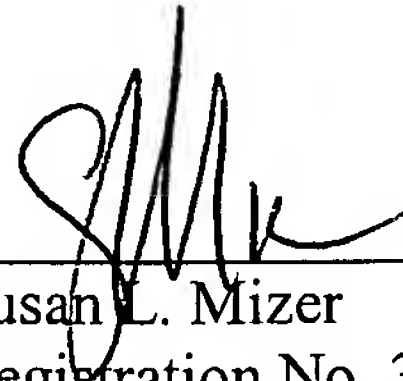
CONCLUSION

The Examiner's observations relative to patentability are appreciated and have been incorporated in the subject amendment. Accordingly, it is submitted that all remaining claims are patentably distinct over the art of record and in condition for allowance thereover.

Application No.: 10/710,485
Amendment dated April 26, 2006
Response to Office Action dated April 10, 2006

If there are any uncovered fees, or any overpayments, necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 72793/00019.

Respectfully submitted,
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